

REMARKS

This Amendment After Final Rejection is submitted in response to the outstanding final Office Action, dated March 31, 2005. Following a Restriction Requirement, claims 19-36, 39 and 40 were previously withdrawn from consideration and cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 1-18, 37 and 38 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. In this response, Applicants propose to amend claim 16 and cancel claims 12-15, 17, 18, and 38, without prejudice. Applicants also expressly reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuation. No additional fee is due.

This amendment is submitted pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116 and should be entered. The Amendment places all of the pending claims following entry of the amendments, i.e., claims 1-11, 16, and 37, in a form that is believed allowable, and, in any event, in a better form for appeal. It is believed that examination of the pending claims as amended, which are consistent with the previous record herein, will not place any substantial burden on the Examiner.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12-15, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Mui (United States Patent Number 6, 690,739) and rejected claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mui. The Examiner indicated that claims 1-11 and 27 (37) are allowed and that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Independent Claims 1, 12, 37 and 38

Independent claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Mui and claim 38 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mui.

Independent claims 12 and 38 have been cancelled, without prejudice. The Examiner has already indicated that claims 1 and 27 (assumed to be claim 37) are allowed.

Dependent Claims 2-11 and 13-18

Dependent claims 13-15, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Mui.

The Examiner has already indicated that claims 2-11 are allowed and that claim 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 13-15, 17, and 18 have been cancelled.

5 All of the pending claims following entry of the amendments, i.e., claims 1-11, 16, and 37, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to
10 contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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